

Overview of Muzaffarpur Diocesan Social Service Society (MDSSS):

History:

On June 24, 1980, Fr. John B. Thakur SJ was consecrated Bishop of Muzaffarpur Diocese in Bettiah. On March 28, 1980, Muzaffarpur Diocese was created. The diocese of Muzaffarpur at the time of this division comprised of 17 civil districts to the north of the River Ganges in the State of Bihar namely, Begusarai, Darbhanga, East Champaran, Gopalganj, Khagaria, Madhepura, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Saharsa, Saran, Samastipur, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Siwan, Supaul, Vaishali and West Champaran. The Diocese mostly concentrated on charity, relief and non-formal education in its initial stages.

A group of people in the Diocese met monthly to plan and review the scope & capacities of the Diocese to engage in developmental works. In 1981, the Social Service Society of the Diocese started functioning informally with the support of Indo-German Social Service Society and Caritas India with a three day planning workshop conducted at Khrist Raja School, Bettiah. The workshop came forth with a decision to conduct a baseline data collection to gather information on Social, Political, Educational and Cultural aspects of the reference population. A need assessment was also initiated along with this. Mr. L. J David was appointed as its first Executive Director in 1983. Mr. James Seraphim took charge of the informal society in 1985.

By a decree of His Holiness, Pope John Pall II, dated August 4, 1998, the diocese of Muzaffarpur was bifurcated and the new diocese of Bettiah was erected comprising of five civil districts of Bihar namely, East Champaran, West Champaran, Gopalganj, Siwan and Saran previously under Muzaffarpur Diocese.

In 2001, the social service society got registered with the name "Muzaffarpur Diocesan Social Service Society" and started functioning as the Socio-Economic Development Office of the Diocese. Even though the diocese was divided in 1998 its social functions were operated from Bettiah Seva Kendra. Mr. James Seraphim was its executive director till May, 2003.

In July 2003, a new Socio-Pastoral renewal center was constructed at Bibiganj, Bhagwanpur Chowk, Muzaffarpur and the social wing started functioning from its premises. Fr. Joseph Orey was appointed the director of MDSSS in June 2003, followed by Fr. Julius in 2005, Fr. Saji Augustine in April 2006 and Fr. Maria Selvam in 2008. Since May, 2018 Fr. Peter Charles has been serving as the director of MDSSS.

About MDSSS (profile) :

MDSSS (Muzaffarpur Diocesan Social Service Society) is the official social wing of the Diocese of Muzaffarpur and was established in the year 1980. Since the past 39 years, it has been dedicatedly working in the social development sector, for the development, empowerment and upliftment of the socio-economically marginalised section of the society. The organisation has been working effortlessly for the Dalit and Mahadalit, Tribal population, Schedule Castes, OBCs, Minority population, Marginalised groups (Dushads, Mushahars, Ravidas), Unemployed persons, Destitute and orphans, Women and children under risk situations.

MDSSS is devotedly working in 12 civil districts of Bihar comprising of Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Samastipur, Begusarai, Khagaria, Madhepura, Supaul, Saharsa, Madhubani, Sheohar, Darbhanga and Sitamarhi.

MDSSS has vast work experience in diverse fields of social development facilitated by a well developed infrastructure and resource base. The organisation has a good rapport and presence in the areas it works in. It has been able to initiate positive community participation and acceptance from the work it has been doing for the last 39 years for the society. It has a well trained, experienced and dedicated team social development professionals, staff and volunteers who work round the clock for the empowerment and integrated development of the under privileged section of the society in Bihar.

In the initial phase, the organisation started with activities of charity, relief and non-formal education. Gradually it expanded its work domain to women and child empowerment, livelihood initiatives, capacity building, training and awareness creation, relief and rehabilitation, nutritional and health activities.

Vision :

We envisage a just humane society based on values of equality, freedom, love & peace.

Mission :

To uphold the human dignity of the marginalized, oppressed and displaced people of Bihar through a process of socio-cultural interventions, economic and political empowerment to help them to become builders of a just human society and ecologically healthy environment.

Our Objectives :

- To create awareness among the poor and under privileged section of the society regarding their rights and entitlements.
- To initiate capacity building and training programmes to capacitate and empower the marginalised sections of the society.
- To uplift the status of women, through women empowerment by linking them with self help groups, federating and linking the SHGs with banks and initiating income generation programmes to improve the financial conditions of their families.
- To initiate skill development training for youth, unemployed and other deprived people of the society to promote alternate livelihood aspects.
- Development and creation of community based organisations, groups and committees to enhance community participation and initiatives for village and community development.
- To identify, train and empower local leadership, to develop them into agents of change to bring in positive change in society.
- To work for child development, child rights and protection by creating awareness on child rights and ways to attain them.
- To create awareness on nutrition and good health and hygiene practices.
- To eradicate social evils like child marriage, child labor, dowry, discrimination on the basis of caste and gender and so on.
- To bring in sustain ability by initiating livelihood alternatives to uplift the socio-economic condition of the deprived section of the society.
- To sensitize government machinery and other social development agencies on various social issues and develop a network to address these issues through a common platform.
- To provide Care and support to people suffering from chronic diseases like cancer, TB, HIV and their prevention by creating awareness about them.
- To initiate disaster management awareness and capacity building workshops and provide support

- through relief and rehabilitation programmes.
- Resilience building among the villagers against disasters and formation of task forces for disaster risk reduction.
- To work for conservation and management of available natural resources.

Operational coverage of MDSSS

MDSSS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Thematic areas of MDSSS Intervention

1. Awareness building :

In the field of awareness building MDSSS has been focusing on the following aspects:

- Right to education.
- Abolition of social evils like child marriage, child labor, dowry etc.
- Literacy promotion.
- Empowering women and the girl child.
- Enrolment of dropout children.
- Government schemes.
- Social discrimination.
- Alternative livelihood options.
- Good health and hygiene practices.

2. Women empowerment:

Our organization focuses on empowerment of women as they are the main pillars of the family. Our area of interventions:

- Upliftment of the status of women.
- Formation of SHGs.
- Initiating Income generation activity.
- Linking girl child to education.
- Abolition of social evils like child marriage, dowry, girl child infanticide etc.
- Disseminating information on government schemes for upliftment of women and the girl child.

3. Formation and promotion of CBOs :

CBOs play a vital role in bringing in social change in the society. Areas of intervention include:

- Formation of SHGs.
- Formation of Children's parliament.
- Formation of Village Child Rights and Education Committee.
- Formation of Disaster Risk Reduction Groups.
- Formation of task forces.
- Formation of Farmer groups.
- Formation of adolescent groups.
- Formation of mothers groups.
- Formation of Community Vigilance Committees.

- Formation of village youth groups.
- Facilitating cultural forums, libraries, health clubs.
- Committees for education and development Monitoring.

4. Livelihood promotion:

The organisation has been working in the field of resilient livelihood especially for the disaster prone areas. Areas of intervention includes:

- Resilient livelihood alternatives in flood affected areas.
- Income generating activities.
- Awareness on how to use loan money effectively for livelihood.
- Linkage of SHGs with Jeevika programs.
- Distribution of resilient seeds in flood prone areas.
- Entrepreneurship development programmes.
- Income generation programmes for vulnerable women.
- Schemes and programmes facilitated by and for the aged / differentially able.
- Linkages with banking and micro-finance institutions.

5. Health initiatives :

Our organisation has been organizing health camps, immunization camps, health awareness programs and liasoning programs with special focus on children, pregnant women and the aged. Areas of intervention include:

- Health camps, health check-ups and medicine distribution.
- Awareness creation on health related government schemes.
- Mobile health units visit to flood prone areas.
- Nutrition and healthy food habits.
- Awareness and promotion of hygienic lifestyles and disease prevention.
- Promotion of health initiatives with linkages to health department.
- Providing medical facilities to remote villages through medical camps.
- Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS issues among general public.
- Care and support for malnourished and victims of communicable diseases.
- Leprosy Eradication Program.
- Promotion of cleanliness and hygiene through awareness programs.
- Enrolment of pregnant women in anganwadi for immunization and vaccination of both mother and child.
- Enrolment of pregnant women in hospitals for safe delivery.
- Awareness on use of toilets at home and in schools.
- Availability of safe drinking water.
- Awareness on preventive measures of diseases (water borne seasonal illnesses).
- Health and hygiene education to adolescent girls and boys.

6. Initiatives related to education:

MDSSS has been running Non-Formal Education centers for the past many years for deprived and needy children of the community. Areas of intervention include:

- Non-formal education centers.
- Survey of dropout children in villages and enrolment in NFE centers and schools.
- Enrolment of victims of child marriage and child labor in NFE centers and schools.
- Monitoring of school facilities and access to them (toilets, Mid-day meals, teaching mechanism etc.)

- Awareness on importance of education.
- Enrolment of girl child in schools.
- Awareness on government scheme related to schools and students.

7. Relief and rehabilitation :

Relief and rehabilitation and disaster risk management has been one of the pioneering areas of our Diocese's work. Key areas of intervention include:

- Distribution of food items.
- Distribution of non food items.
- Preparation of temporary shelters.
- Awareness on DRR.
- Creation of warning signs and systems.
- Repair of houses destroyed in disaster.
- Awareness creation on how to handle disaster situations.
- Health and hygiene and sanitation related work during disaster situations.
- Koshi Flood Response Programme.
- Bihar Flood relief programme.
- Integrated Flood Rehabilitation Programmes.
- Resilience building among the villagers.
- Formation of Task forces and capacity development.
- Information Technology Communication and Disaster Risk Reduction.

8. Natural resource management:

The organization has been creating awareness and empowering the community with regard to efficient natural resource management. Key interventions include:

- Provision of resilient seeds for flood prone areas.
- Conservation and protection of environment.
- Use of eco-friendly manure and pesticides.
- Conservation of water.
- Plantation drives.
- Awareness on waste management techniques.

9. Child rights, child development and protection :

The organization believes that children are the future of any nation, therefore they should get the best care, love and nurturing. Our organization has been working in the following areas for child development and protection:

- Awareness on child rights and protection issues. Training and capacity building of children and community members on how to handle child right violation issues.
- Networking with government officials and PRI members with regard to availing child rights and child development facilities.
- Creation of a safe and child friendly environment for children to live in.
- Improving the overall personality of the child.
- Awareness creation on child welfare schemes by the government.
- To bring out their hidden talents.
- Hostel facility for drop-outs & marginalized children.

10. Advocacy and lobbying :

Advocacy and lobby has been an underlying activity of our organization, to facilitate social and economic justice to the deprived. Key areas of interventions include:

- Empowering CBOs to liaison with government officials and PRi members to avail their entitlements.
- Advocacy in the field of child rights, women empowerment, availability of health facilities, access to facilities in schools and educational institutions.
- Advocacy and networking for availing various government schemes provided for the upliftment of the socially and economically deprived section of the society.
- Networking lobby with likeminded NGOs to develop a common platform to work together in the required fields.
- Rapport establishment and maintenance of professionalism in all areas.
- Interface with the PRI's and other development actors.
- Campaigns on the rights of Dalits.
- Documenting best practices and projecting it for advocacy.

11. Initiatives with regard to victims under risk conditions:

The organization has been working with victims under high risk conditions such as those facing problems of child labor, child marriage and trafficking. Areas of intervention include:

- Awareness creation for abolition of social evils like child labor, child marriage, trafficking etc.
- Formation of CBOs to combat trafficking and child labor.
- Awareness on legal procedures and laws for victims under risk conditions.
- Networking with protection agencies like police, CWC, Juvenile Justice Board, Child line etc. for support.
- Counseling of victims under risk conditions.

A. Community Development Programs and Projects Run by MDSSS

I. ROUSHNI :

Area of work: Child Rights, Child protection and development.

District: Begusarai, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur.

Total Villages covered: 48 Beneficiaries: 2500 Families; 1920 Children's Parliament Members; 720 VECRC members.

II. ROUSHNI : SUPPROTING PARTNER: KNH GERMANY

PROJECT PERIOD

Phase 1: October 2016 to September 2019.

Phase 2: October 2019 to September 2024.

Roushni means spreading light. In a similar manner PROJECT ROUSHNI aims at lighting the lives of the deprived and vulnerable children of the society. Children are the future of any nation, they should get the opportunity to be nurtured in the best possible manner, so that they grow up into responsible citizens and humanitarian individuals. The project focuses on the concepts of child rights, child protection and child

development among the community and children of the target villages. It aims at empowering the children and community in such a way that they become confident enough to stand up for their rights and entitlements in a united manner. The project also focuses on creating a child friendly and secure environment for the children to live in. The project works on the concept of CHILD CENTERED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT where the children act as ambassadors to bring in positive social change in the society especially with regard to aspects related to child rights and protection along with other village development aspects.

Outcome from the project :

- Children and community became knowledgeable about child rights and child right violation aspects.
- Participation of the children and the community members in various activities and programs of the project boosted their morale and confidence.
- Development in personality of the children and community members.
- The community members and the children understood the importance of education in one's life.
- Survey of drop-out children in village by CP members helped in linking school drop-outs to education. 328 drop-out children have been enrolled in schools
- Children understood the importance of their life and how they can groom their life in a better way through education, awareness and active initiation of positive action.
- Children's potentials and talents were enhanced through activities like talent hunt, training programs etc.
- One could see decrease in discrimination with regard to gender and social discrimination.
- Impact on other children and community members of the village through awareness programs and eradication of social evils etc.
- Reduction in child abuse, violence, exploitation cases in the villages.
- Improvement in the status of the girl child and women.
- Children and community are aware about important contact numbers and how and when to contact them.
- Community has become aware of various Government schemes and entitlements such as Ujjwala Yojna, schemes related to welfare of children, women and farmers
- Development of village assets, such as roads, drainage systems, library, playground etc.
- Change in the attitude and mind-set of the community.
- Elimination of social evils such as child marriage (40 child marriages stopped) and child labor cases have been identified and resolved
- Increased child participation in project activities and programs, meetings and Gram Sabhas.
- Repatriation of lost children. 10 lost children were repatriated to their homes with the help of Child line and police.
- Children have become confident and aware about their rights and express themselves in this regard in front of government officials.
- Children and Village Education and Child Rights Committee (VECRC) members independently conduct meetings, identify issues and resolve them assuring sustainability of project goals and objectives.

Achievements:

- 1920 children trained on child rights and village development related aspect.
- 720 VECRC members trained on child rights and village development related aspects.

- 240 children trained in alternated source of livelihood (making candle and aggarbatti)
- 120 children participated in child rights exhibition.
- 120 children participated in science exhibition.
- More than 3000 people made aware on social, health related aspects through mobile van activity.
- A child from our children's parliament group in Samastipur became an Indian representative in International children's parliament forum.
- 80 children's parliament members participated in street play to create awareness in community on social issues.
- More than 4500 people reached out during the COVID-19 pandemic through awareness drives and networking with health workers.
- 940 children parliament members and 240 VECRC members provided masks for protection against Covid-19.

II. CHILD RIGHTS PROMOTION THROUGH EDUCATION CHILD RIGHTS PROMOTION THROUGH EDUCATION

Area of work: Child Rights, Child protection and Education.

District: Sitamarhi, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur.

Total Villages covered: 27, **Beneficiaries:** 1200 Families; 1080 NFE center children; 810 Children's Parliament Members; 405 VECRC members; 540 Parent Committee members.

SUPPORTING PARTNER: KINDERMISSIONSWERK, GERMANY.

PROJECT PERIOD : September 2019 to August 2022.

Child Rights Promotion through education is also known as CRPE project. The project aims at bringing a ray of light in the lives of socially vulnerable children of the society by educating them. The target of the project is the poorest community such as Scheduled Caste/ Maha-Dalits and other Backward Caste communities. The project focuses on promoting education and learning opportunities for girl/boy children in the poorest communities by providing alternative learning opportunity for out-of-the school children. The project was designed to involve all probable stakeholders including parents, community members, PRI members, School authorities, teachers and education department to address caste and gender biases and build conducive environment for children's education. One of the objectives of the project is to empower and strengthen Community Based Organizations at the community level so that the community members are able to identify, plan and resolve various issues. The main goal of this project was to achieve education for all deprived communities through access and control over resources, information and knowledge needed for the holistic growth of an individual to become meaningful persons for the community and work resolutely towards overall development of the society.

Outcome from the project :

- Children from the deprived section of the society have been enrolled in NFE centers in the target villages.
- Children's parliaments have been formed and the members are being trained in various child rights, child development and child protection aspects.
- CBOs like Village Child rights and Education committees (VECRC), parents committees have been formed to support the children's parliament in resolving various child right violation and village development issues.

- Parents have become aware about their responsibilities towards their children and are focusing on good nurturing practices for their children's overall development.

Achievements:

- 1080 children enrolled in NFE centers.
- 119 drop-out children enrolled in government schools.
- 127 children enrolled in government schools as new admissions.
- 270 children trained in child rights aspect.
- 405 VECRC members trained in child rights and village development aspects
- 180 parents committee members were trained on alternate source of livelihood (candle and ayurvedic oil making).
- 135 children were trained on life skills and personality development aspects.
- 540 parents committee members were trained and made aware on child development, child care, protection and child rights aspects.

III. BMZ GLOBAL PROGRAM :

Area of work: Poverty Reduction and Food Security, Promoting of Social Inclusion of Particularly Marginalized Groups, Increasing Resilience to Disasters in High-Risk Areas.

District: Supaul, Total Villages covered: 20

Beneficiaries: 1200 Families

SUPPORTING PARTNER: CARITAS GERMANY and BMZ (Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany)

PROJECT PERIOD: April 2021 to March 2024.

BMZ Global programme is being implemented in 20 villages of 04 panchayats in Saraigarh-Bhaptiahi Block of Supaul District of Bihar. These villages are situated in the inner catchment area of Koshi and 6 subordinate rivers of Koshi. Flood hits every year in these villages and due to the floods, the communities in the area face many challenges like loss of property, crops, houses, human life and animals. Siltation and erosion are the main issues of concern in this area and most of the villages are accessible to the blocks and district headquarters only through boat. Community is displaced every year to new places due to heavy erosion by Koshi and its other subordinate rivers. Agriculture, agriculture labors, animal husbandry and migration are the main source of livelihood in these areas. The project aims at upliftment and empowerment of the marginalized section of the society by providing them with knowledge and resource for resilient livelihood options, disaster risk management techniques. It also aims at developing a network with other agencies and government departments to facilitate the projects objectives. The BMZ Global Program envisages key objectives to improve quality of life of marginalized populations in Bihar through building Disaster resilience and food security.

Outcome from the project :

- Community members have been trained on disaster risk management aspects.
- Community people became knowledgeable about various resilient livelihood alternatives.
- Participation of the community members in various activities and programs of the project boosted their morale and confidence to face disaster situations in a positive manner.

- Improvement in the standard of living of the community members with food security measures.
- Community has become aware of various Government schemes and entitlements and they initiate action to avail them.
- Change in the attitude and mind-set of the community in handling challenging situations of disaster such as flood.
- CBOs are able to prepare and implement development, contingency and resilient livelihood plan effectively.
- Farmers have become aware about various scientific techniques of farming and are using them in their daily farming work.
- Disaster Risk Reduction Committees are able to prepare Risk Reduction Plans in their respective villages which include development of contingency plan and the village development plans.
- The community members actively participate in Gram Sabhas and put their contingency plan and the village development plans in these Gram Sabhas. Many of these plans have been considered and approved by the Gram Sabhas.
- Farmer groups have been formed and linked to various facilities of the agriculture department, like free vegetable seed distribution, installation of organic traps to catch pests and insects, resilient paddy and mushroom cultivation, agro horticulture farming etc.
- Task forces have been formed in the villages and trained on technical aspect of early warning, first aid and search & rescue with regard to flood situations. These groups are able to assess early signs of flood and are able to take measures of pre-preparedness during floods, including rescue and rehabilitation.

Achievements :

- 317 DRR committee members are oriented on disaster risk management.
- 206 task force committee members are oriented on disaster risk management.
- 120 of marginalized households are made aware about their participation disaster risk in reduction measures.
- 109 households are made aware about resilient livelihood options.
- 109 farmers have gained knowledge on organic farming and scientific agriculture practices along with knowledge on resilient variety of seeds and crops which can be cultivated in flood prone areas.
- 206 Task force members are trained on technical aspect of early warning, first aid and search & rescue.
- 60 task forces are equipped with emergency kits (5 life Jackets, 3 Buoy rings, 30 ropes, 1 first aid kit) by MDSSS.
- 20 village development plans developed by DRR committees are submitted for approval in Gram Sabha (Gram Sabha conducted in month of February 2022).
- 20 PDRA (Participatory disaster risk analysis) conducted in different 20 villages.
- 145 marginalized families supported with relief ration kit during the covid- 19 pandemic.
- 60 frontline workers supported with hygiene and protection kit during the covid- 19 pandemic.

IV. CHIRAG : SUPPROTING PARTNER: KNH GERMANY

Area of work: Child Rights, Child protection and development

District: Begusarai, Samastipur

Total Brick kilns covered: 12

Beneficiaries: 168 Families; 382 Children's group members; 336 parents committee members.

PROJECT PERIOD: October 2021 to September 2026.

Project "Chirag endeavours to light a lamp in the lives of socially vulnerable and deprived children by educating and empowering them. The proposed project involves the children of the poorest community

whose families have been facing problems of livelihood scarcity, opportunistic indifference and denial of even the basic entitlements of a decent shelter, nutritious food, subsidised healthcare facilities and education to their children. It has been seen that a lot of migrant workers come to Bihar, especially in the brick kiln sector in search of an alternate source of livelihood. Most of the workers are accompanied by their family which also include their children. It has been seen that when the parents are working in the brick kilns. These children are left behind unattended under unhygienic conditions. In certain cases, where the child is a bit older, he/she too assists his/her parents in the brick making activities. These children are deprived of the basic facilities of a safe and protected shelter, nutritious food and lack proper care. These children are totally cut off from education, as they are unable to attend regular schools due to their migratory status.

The project is being implemented in 12 brick kilns of two districts of Bihar namely, Samastipur and Begusarai. The project will be working with the deprived section of the society, the brick kiln workers and their children, to empower them about their rights; with focus on linking these children to local schools with the assistance of the Non-Formal Education centres which are run in the brick kilns. Parent committees, children's groups are formed to create awareness on child rights, right to education, child protection and development and other aspects like how to eradicate social evils like child marriage, child labour, gender inequality, caste discrimination etc. The project endeavours to promote education and learning opportunities for children in the poorest community. It aims at providing alternative learning opportunity for out-of-the schools children, improve their access to education and enrol them in regular schools so as to prevent school drop-outs. The project works on the concept of CHILD CENTERED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT where the children act as ambassadors to bring in positive social change in the society especially with regard to aspects related to child rights and protection aspects.

Outcome from the project :

- Children and brick kiln workers became knowledgeable about child rights and child right violation aspects.
- Both children and the brick kiln workers participate in various activities and programs of the project boosted their morale and confidence.
- Development in personality of the children and brick kiln workers.
- The brick kiln workers and the children understood the importance of education in one's life.
- Children understood the importance of their life and how they can groom their life in a better way through education, awareness and active initiation of positive action.
- Children's potentials and talents were enhanced through activities like talent hunt, training programs etc.
- One could see decrease in discrimination with regard to gender and social discrimination.
- Impact on other children and community members of the native village of the brick kiln workers, through awareness programs and eradication of social evils etc.
- Reduction in child abuse, violence, exploitation cases in the villages. 163 child abuse cases have been resolved in the three districts.
- Improvement in the status of the girl child and women.
- Children and brick kiln workers are aware about important contact numbers and how and when to contact them.

- Brick kiln workers have become aware of various Government schemes and entitlements.
- Change in the attitude and mind-set of the children, brick kiln workers and community.
- Elimination of social evils such as child marriage are becoming a reality
- Children have become confident and aware about their rights and express themselves in this regard in front of government officials.
- Children and brick kiln workers independently conduct meetings, identify issues and resolve them assuring sustainability of project goals and objectives.

Achievements:

- 382 children trained on child rights and village development related aspects.
- 298 parents committee members trained on child rights and village development related aspects.
- 298 parent committee members made aware about government schemes and entitlements.
- 128 children participated in campaign on right to food and right to education.
- 246 children participated in capacity building program on child abuse
- 244 parents committee members participated in capacity building program on child abuse.
- 382 children supported with teaching learning material for better studies.
- 382 children provided masks for protection against covid-19.

A. Other Projects implemented during the reporting period by MDSSS

SUPPORTING PARTNER: CARITAS INDIA

PROJECT PERIOD

Phase 1: Suposhan

January 2018 to March 2019.

Phase 2: Roshni Suposhan

April 2019 to March 2020

ROSHNI SUPOSHAN

Area of work: Nutrition and Education

District: Madhepura

Total Villages covered: 15

Beneficiaries: 952 Mushahar Families; 15 Community development committees; 15 Adolescent groups; 15 Mother's groups; 540 NFE center children

1. ROSHNI-SUPOSHAN :

Roshni-Suposhan project was earlier known as SUPOSHON project which singly focused on enhancing the nutrition condition in the deprived section of the society. In the second phase it is named as ROSHNI- SUPOSHAN project with combined focus on nutrition and education. Roshni Suposhan Project was being implemented in fifteen villages of Gwalpara Block in Madhepura District. The project mainly focuses on promoting social inclusion of the deprived, oppressed and discriminated members of the society with regard to access to education, health facilities, nutritional food and basic survival requirements. The target group of the project are the Mahadalit Mushahar (Rishidev) community members. The major goals of the project are to improve the food and nutrition security aspect and

education facilities in the area, through awareness building on various government schemes and programs. It also aims at empowering the community members to stand up for their rights and entitlements through active participation in planning, implementation and review of various issues that hamper their progress and upliftment. It also emphasises on uniting the community into CBOs to influence public programs and policy development keeping in mind the requirement of the deprived section of the society.

Outcome from the project :

- Community members have become aware about various government schemes and entitlements and are initiating action to avail them.
- The project has been able to change the mind-set of the people. They have understood the importance of good health and hygiene practices and actively participate in keeping their surroundings clean.
- Participation of the community members in various activities, training programs and awareness programs has boosted their morale and confidence and they are able to raise their voice against any kind of injustice.
- The community members became aware about balanced and nutritious diet. Seeds of nutritious vegetables and fruits were distributed and many of the community members started their own kitchen gardens.
- The community is actively availing government and health facilities. Pregnant women have been enrolled in hospitals and anganwadis for safe delivery, vaccination and nutritious food.
- People have understood the importance of education and are enrolling their children in NFE centres of the project and schools. Parents have understood their responsibilities towards their children and undertake regular school visits to improve access of school facilities for their children.
- Community members are actively participating in Gram Sabhas and are putting their demands in these gram Sabhas.
- Different CBOs like mothers' committees, adolescent groups and Village development committees have been formed to enhance the status of women in the society.

Achievements:

- 32 pregnant and lactating women enrolled at ICDS and receiving a range of nutritional and healthcare entitlements under ICDS services.
- 24 women opted for institutional delivery (to claim post-delivery entitlements)
- 116 households able to acquire land for collective cropping/vegetables and fruits cultivation.
- 94 households have increased vegetable availability with nutrition gardens in their homesteads.
- 819 families received timely, regular and entitled quantity of subsidized rations under Targeted Public Distribution Scheme and have used the saved money for education and on other emergencies.
- 485 families receiving timely, regular and entitled quantity of subsidized rations under Targeted Public Distribution Scheme.
- 225 Community members trained on government schemes.
- 578 Capacity building program organized for CBOs.
- 15 Ward Development Plans (WDPs) developed where SC members have influenced at least one decision concerning them as a community.
- 16 VDPs prepared where SC members have influenced at least one decision concerning them.
- 540 children provided with supplementary education support.

2. COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOR SUPPORTING PARTNER: MISEREOR

PROJECT PERIOD :

Phase 1: January, 2016 to December.2018

Phase 2: January 2019 to December 2021

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOR

Area of work: Creating awareness on human trafficking and child labor and ways to prevent them

District:Sitamarhi

Total Villages covered: 15

Beneficiaries: 1500 families; 480 NFE center children; 300 Community Village Group Members

Combating human trafficking and child labour project is also known as CHT project. The project aims at bringing in positive social change and improvement of living conditions of the community members of the target area through education, life skill development and creation of alternate livelihood by availing various government schemes and entitlements. It also focuses on creating awareness on social evils like child labour and human trafficking and how these issues can be identified and resolved through active community participation and initiatives. CBOs such as the Community vigilance groups (CVGs), SHGs were empowered and motivated to monitor human rights violation issues and act efficiently against them by networking and lobbying with government officials and other like-minded NGOs and social development agencies working on human rights and human trafficking issues.

Outcome from the project :

- Community has become aware about the ill effects of child labour and human trafficking and have also learnt how to tackle such issues.
- Community members have understood the importance of education and the percentage of children especially girl children's enrolment in school and NFE centres has increased.
- CVGs have been formed and they are actively monitoring human rights violation cases related to child labour and human trafficking. These groups have successfully been able to reduce and resolve many missing children and women cases in their areas.
- Awareness amongst youth, especially adolescent girls has increased. They are well trained on aspects related to their safety, vigilance for human trafficking and incidences of child labour and actively participate in resolving them.
- The community members are empowered and educated on effective networking techniques to liaison with various government officials to avail their rights. Interface meetings government officials also facilitated the community members to avail benefits from various government schemes.

Achievements:

- 110 children enrolled in the Government School.
- 700 pregnant Women and children immunization.
- 374 people engaged in MNREGA activities.
- 350 beneficiaries were linked to Indira AwasYojna scheme.
- 429 persons who received ration cards.
- 800 people from 3 villages were made aware on various social issues through street play.
- 28 beneficiaries were linked to kanya VivahYojna.
- 55 widows were linked to widow pension scheme.
- 38 elderly people were linked to old age pension scheme.

3. RELIEF AND REHABILITATION :

“Immediate life-saving humanitarian response among marginal and excluded population in Bihar”

Project Period: 5th August 2020 - 5th October 2020

MDSSS has been dedicatedly and actively working in the field of relief and rehabilitation for the past many years. As many of the districts under the diocese fall under the flood effected zone, flood relief has been one of the prime activities of the organization. Immediate relief in the form of non-food items, food items, wash kits etc were provided to the disaster affected families. The community is trained on how to handle the disaster situation in an effective manner, such as what health and hygiene measures are to be taken, how rescue is to be done, how to identify target families for relief support and how to assist them at time of disaster and so on.

Number of shelter and hygiene kits distributed: 800

Total number of hand pumps repaired: 27

Total number of hand pumps chlorinated:105

COVID Relief :

Project period: March 2020-December 2021

COVID-19 has affected a lot of people especially the rural poor and daily earners. Pandemic and then the extended lockdowns have drastically affected the life of the poor people. They undergo lot of problems. Daily wage workers are forced to live inside their houses. With the extension of the lockdown period, poor people face difficulties to meet their day-to-day expenses. The life situation of the people is becoming worse and worse especially the poor people and vulnerable community. With the Covid-19 Challenges still persisting, MDSSS team stood by the masses at this time of distress. Awareness drives related to COVID-19 symptoms, preventive measures and vaccination were conducted. Our team worked in coordination with the police and health department officials to facilitate vigilance and identification and treatment of symptomatic patients. The community members were also provided COVID relief kits.

25066 people were made aware about COVID-19 symptoms, precautionary measures to be taken, vaccination etc.

385 households supported with Medical/hygiene kits (oximeter, vaporiser, thermometer, medicines etc.)

1903 people registered for vaccination through MDSSS support.

1903 people vaccinated through MDSSS support.

2 oxygen concentrators distributed for community use during COVID situation.

2280 dry ration kits distributed in community during COVID pandemic.

450 migrant workers were supported with cooked food during the COVID pandemic.

OUR BENEFACTORS AND DONORS

Various projects and programs run by MDSSS were generously supported by a number of agencies working in the social development sector. MDSSS is grateful to the following agencies for the support and guidance provided for running these projects and programs.



Our Implementing Partners

We are also grateful to our implementing partners who have worked with us with dedication towards the successful implementation of the projects and programs in the target areas.

DIOCESAN PREISTS

BIHAR FORUM

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE BON SECOURS (FBS)

CONGREGATION OF OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS (RNDM) | FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF MARY (FMM)

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS (SMA) | MEDICAL MISSION SISTERS (MMS)

CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (CIC)